

## Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative

Launched in June 2013 to encourage U.S. city and county governments to share good ideas, develop new tools, and receive recognition for efforts to create more welcoming communities that improve the quality of life and economic potential for all residents

<http://www.welcomingamerica.org/>

## Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative

As of April 2015, there are 51 cities that are considered Welcoming Communities

Roanoke, VA is the first city in Virginia to receive this recognition

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Welcoming America inspires people  
to build a different kind of  
community— one that embraces  
immigrants and fosters opportunity  
for all.

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## MISSION

To lead a movement of inclusive communities across the nation to become more prosperous by making everyone who lives there feel like they belong.

To connect a broad network of nonprofits local governments and support them in developing plans, programs and policies that transform their communities into vibrant places where people respect each other and everyone's talents are valued and cultivated.

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Welcoming America defines a Welcoming City or County as a community that has these 5 characteristics:

## PLANS

All relevant sectors, such as government, business, non-profit, and others are engaged to work together to create a welcoming community climate that supports long-term integration

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## COMMITTS

Commitments are made to institutionalize strategies that ensure the ongoing inclusion and long-term economic and social integration of newcomers

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## BUILDS COMMUNITY

Newcomers and long-term residents are engaged to find common ground and shared leadership

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## COMMUNICATES

Messages of unity and shared values permeate the community through the media, through the voice of leaders and among residents

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## SUSTAINS

Policies and practices are considered in order to ensure that interactions between new and longer-term Americans remain positive ones and the community's economic vitality remains strong.

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